



# ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

## **NORTH FLORIDA DISTRICT OFFICE**

**U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

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**Release Date: Jan. 24, 2002**

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### ***ORLANDO REGIONAL HEARING GIVES SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AGAINST BURDENSOME, UNFAIR FEDERAL REGULATIONS***

<b>WHO:</b>	SBA National Ombudsman Michael L. Barrera, members of the Regional Regulatory Fairness Board for Region IV from <b>Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky</b> , and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and community and business leaders are invited to testify about federal regulations that may be having a negative effect on small businesses or that may be unfair or unreasonable.
<b>WHAT:</b>	The U. S. Congress has asked the SBA and the national ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness Board hearings, such as this one in Orlando. The national ombudsman works directly with federal regulatory agencies to resolve complaints and create a more business-friendly regulatory environment. Using information gathered at Regulatory Fairness Hearings, the national ombudsman prepares an annual report to Congress with findings and recommendations on the federal regulatory environment and its impact upon small business.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Monday, January 28 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
<b>WHERE:</b>	Radisson Plaza Orlando, Ivanhoe Ballroom 60 South Ivanhoe Blvd. Orlando, FL 32804
<b>MEDIA:</b>	The hearing is open to the press and the public. In addition, Ombudsman Barrera will be available for interviews at 12 p.m. Jan. 28, or as arranged.

**Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.**

Any small business burdened by federal regulations can either contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or 202-205-2417. Or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman). Phone numbers for the nearest SBA district office are available by calling the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U ASK SBA.